--- 1/5th Pound - "Series of 1883" - BLUE - with the 26 mm. "Montreal" imprint ---

--- Recess printed by hand press on horizontal mesh wove - 255 x 20 mm - 5 mm. red controls ---

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John McKay records that 94,500 copies, *recess printed* by hand press, and 71,955 *lithographed* copies of "1/5 lb. Blue, Tobacco" were 'delivered' under the **4th BABN Contract** (1886-1892). I have not noticed any *lithographed* copies, but I have not been looking. Possibly these lithographed copies were "Series of 1880" blue Customs strips that were sent to Ottawa in the summer of 1887 for disposal.

John McKay further records that 100,585 copies of the "1/5, Blue, Tobacco", *recess printed* by hand press, were 'delivered' under the **5th BABN Contract** (1892-1897).

Finally McKay reports that 52,640 copies, *recess printed* by hand press of "1/5, Blue, Tobacco" were 'delivered' under the **5th BABN Supplement** (1897-1898). These sheets had been printed under the **5th BABN Contract** and remained in BABN stock when they lost the printing contract to ABN in 1897. By mutual agreement they were made available to the Department while ABN worked 'up-to-speed' with the die preparation and the printing of the "Series of 1897".

4th BABN Contract - October 22nd 1886	94,500 recess (hand press)	**000001** to **094500**
5th BABN Contract - April 23rd 1892	100,585 recess (hand press)	**094501** to **195085**
5th BABN Supplement - (1897-1898)	52,640 recess (hand press)	**195086** to **247725**
	247,725	

Probably all 250,000 copies were printed in a single batch under the **4th BABN Contract** in 1886. Thus there were no *imprint free*, or "Ottawa" imprint strips - as can be found for the black 1/5th pound 1883 strip.

The catalogue lists the recess printed "Series of 1883" blue 1/5th pound strips as follows:

RP-620 - 1/5th pound, blue, *coarse roulette*, on horizontal mesh wove, "Montreal" imprint, with 5 mm. red controls

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--- RP-620 - 1/5th pound, blue, *coarse roulette* - with 5 mm red controls - scanned at 67% scale ---

RP-620 CP - 1/5th pound, *coarse roulette*, printed by hand press on horizontal mesh wove, with 5 mm. control **225750**, 254 x 20 mm. design, with the 26 mm "Montreal" imprint - stamped **CANCELLED** in 3 mm. Gothic

RP-620 - 1/5th pound, *coarse roulette*, printed by hand press on horizontal mesh wove, with 5 mm. control **225753**,

225704	RP-620 CP	1/5th pound, coarse roulette, printed by hand press on horizontal mesh wove, stamped **CANCELLED** in 3 mm. Gothic - suspect
225708	RP-620	1/5th pound, coarse roulette, printed by hand press on horizontal mesh wove
225714	RP-620	1/5th pound, coarse roulette, printed by hand press on horizontal mesh wove
225750★	RP-620 CP	1/5th pound, coarse roulette, printed by hand press on horizontal mesh wove, stamped **CANCELLED** in 3 mm. Gothic - suspect
225753★	RP-620	1/5th pound, coarse roulette, printed by hand press on horizontal mesh wove

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Carrying the “Montreal” imprint the plates were obviously prepared in Montreal. However the 5 mm. control numbering indicates that these remnant strips were printed or at least control numbered in Ottawa.

File path is [c:\ CR - STAMPS \ RP_STAMPS \ 1883 \ Blue \ 1-5 pound - 255 mm],
In MS Word 2007 for Windows 7,
Formatted for a HP CP 1525 Laser Jet,
September 26th 2013 - JBH